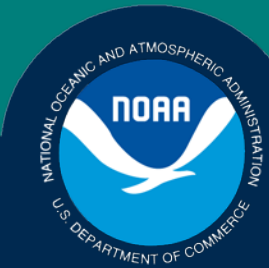


Science, Service, Stewardship



Gulf of Mexico Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program

Program and FY12 Funding Opportunity Overview

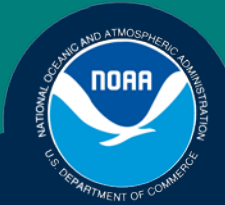
July 11, 2011

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Presentation Overview

- B-WET description
- B-WET in the Gulf of Mexico
- FY12 Gulf of Mexico B-WET Proposal Requirements
- FY12 Gulf of Mexico B-WET Award Details
- Finding, and applying for, B-WET funding
- Timeline for application and review
- Tips on writing the proposal
- For more information



This Presentation IS:

- An introduction to the NOAA Bay-Watershed Education & Training (B-WET) Program
- A look at the FY12 Gulf of Mexico funding opportunity
- A brief overview of the application process
- A listing of general tips on writing proposals

This Presentation is NOT:

- Required to be eligible for funding
- A guarantee of a high score or funding approval of an application
- An endorsement of any type by NOAA
- The sole source of information about federal funding opportunities administered by NOAA
- The sole source of technical assistance regarding the competitive application process



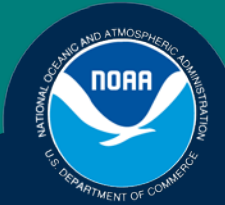
What is NOAA B-WET?

- National program implemented by local NOAA offices
- Uses hands-on learning experiences to increase understanding and stewardship of our marine and coastal resources
- B-WET exists in these regions: Chesapeake Bay, California, Hawai'i, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific NW, Northeast, Great Lakes
- Variations on a theme:
 - ❖ All programs focus on meaningful watershed educational experiences (MWEEs)
 - ❖ Specific implementation tailored to local needs
 - ❖ Built upon established NOAA presence



NOAA B-WET Drivers

- NOAA's 20-Year Education Strategic Plan
 - Goal 1: An environmentally literate public supported by a continuum of lifelong formal and informal education and outreach opportunities in ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, weather, and climate sciences
 - Goal 2: A future workforce, reflecting the diversity of the Nation, skilled in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and other disciplines critical to NOAA's mission
 - Available for download at:
http://www.education.noaa.gov/plan/09_NOAA_Educ_Strategic_Plan_Color.pdf
- Congressional Authorization through the America COMPETES Act
 - America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science passed in 2007
 - Authorizes NOAA to “conduct, develop, support, promote, and coordinate formal and informal educational activities at all levels to enhance public awareness and understanding of ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, and atmospheric science...”
 - While conducting the above activities, the agency shall “build upon the existing educational programs and activities of the agency”



B-WET in the Gulf of Mexico

- Prior to 2008 NOAA B-WET Programs were established for the Chesapeake Bay, California, and the Hawaiian Islands.
- In 2008, three new programs began in New England, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Northwest.
- The EPA has tentatively agreed to fund a Great Lakes B-WET program in fiscal year 2011.



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The Gulf of Mexico B-WET
Fiscal Year 2012
Federal Funding Opportunity
is currently open!



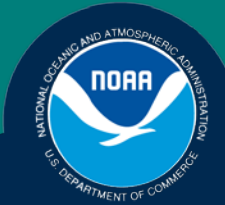
Gulf B-WET Proposed Projects Must...

- Address one of three areas of interest:
 - Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences for Students
 - Professional Development for Teachers related to Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences
 - Exemplary Programs combining Teacher Professional Development with long-term classroom-integrated Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences for their students
- Respond to a Gulf of Mexico Alliance Priority
 - The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a partnership of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico



What is a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE)?

- Investigative or Project-oriented
- 3 Phases: Preparation, Action, & Reflection
- Integral, Sustained Part of Instructional Program
- Studies Watershed as a System
- External Sharing & Communication
- More info available at: <http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/>



What are the GOMA Priority Issues?

Through the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the five U.S. Gulf States have identified six priority issues that are regionally significant and can be effectively addressed through increased collaboration at local, state, and federal levels. These priority areas include:

- Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds
- Wetland and coastal conservation and restoration
- Environmental education
- Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats
- Reducing nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems
- Coastal community resiliency

More info available at www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org



Gulf B-WET Award Details

- \$25,000-\$100,000 awards for projects one to two years in duration
- Eligible organizations: K-through-12 public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, state or local government agencies, and Indian tribal governments
- The Gulf of Mexico is defined as the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas



Finding the Gulf B-WET Opportunity

- The Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO)
 - ...details program requirements
 - ...defines application requirements
- The FY12 Gulf BWET FFO can be found at
 1. www.Grants.gov
 2. Gulf B-WET website:
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/grants/B-Wet.htm>



Applying for a Gulf B-WET Grant

- Search for the grant opportunity by funding opportunity number at www.grants.gov
- The FY12 Gulf of Mexico B-Wet funding opportunity number is **NOAA-NMFS-SE-2012-2003085**
- Follow the steps in grants.gov to apply
- If your organization does not already have one, register for a DUNS # (Data Universal Numbering System) prior to applying.



FY 12 Gulf B-WET Timeline

- Applications submitted to NOAA (October 14, 2011)
- Technical /Panel Reviews (December 2011)
- Award recommendations announced (January 2012)
- Negotiations for successful applicants (Spring 2012)
- Awards begin (July-September 2012)



Proposal Writing Best Practices

- Carefully follow FFO directions for proposal format and required information and forms
- Clearly describe your project and respond to all questions posed in the FFO
- Be sure your project summary clearly describes your project and identifies the PI(s)
- Be sure your budget is detailed and thorough
- Make a compelling argument and do not assume the reviewer knows about the proposed project
- Carefully organize the text
- Proofread before submitting
- Know the application deadline and process



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For More Information

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Gulf of Mexico B-WET website:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/grants/B-Wet.htm>

National B-WET website:

<http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/>